

Thanks to Volunteers on Both Sides of the Atlantic

So many people have given so much of themselves to PAMBE Ghana -- their time, talent and resources. We recognize our generous donors for their financial investment in PAMBE Ghana since January 2008:

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Please forgive us if we have failed to include your name. Thanks to all our generous donors.



PAMBE Ghana Founder Alice Iddi-Gubbels (top row, third from left) depends on the 15-member **PAMBE Ghana Advisory Committee** for guidance and support. They have steered the search for and recruitment of staff, assessed sites for establishing the school, and built legitimacy and support for the program throughout Mamprugu districts of Ghana.



Upcoming Events:

■ Alice Back In Oklahoma

PAMBE Ghana founder and executive director Alice Iddi-Gubbels will be back in Oklahoma late this summer!

■ Party Time

Parties and gatherings are in the planning stages to welcome Alice "home" and hear all about the progress of PAMBE Ghana.

■ Global Market 2009

In the planning stages: a holiday market with all proceeds going to support PAMBE Ghana.

PAMBE Ghana
Partnership for
Mother-tongue Bilingual
Education in Ghana

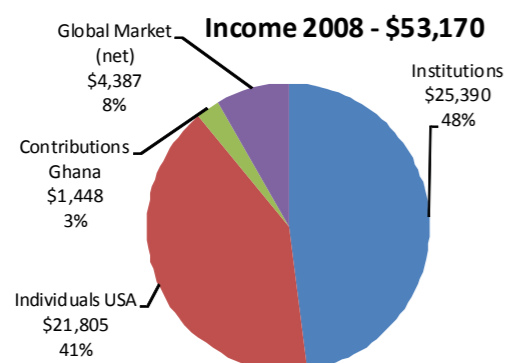
P.O. Box 18813
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www.pambeghana.org

PAMBE Ghana is approved by the
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organization.

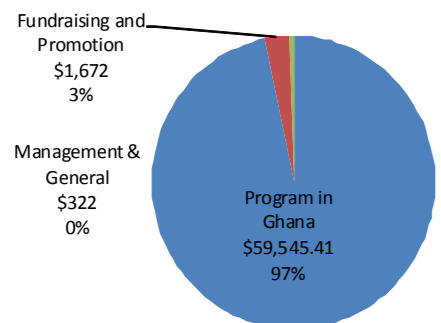
2008 Financial Report

100% of donor gifts go to the program.

All fundraising, management and general expenses are covered by contributions by the PAMBE Ghana Board of Directors.



Expense 2008 - \$61,540



| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Income / Revenue | \$53,170 |
| Expense | 61,540 |
| Change in Net Assets | (8,370) |
| Net Assets Start of Year | 25,541 |
| Net Assets End of Year | 17,171 |

Partnership for Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education in Ghana

PAMBE Ghana

Spring 2009

Newsletter



Alice Iddi-Gubbels and PAMBE Ghana local supporter Bawah Issaka prepare to open the doors of the new school in Bumboazio community.

A student, Lydia Alhassan, proudly displays her work.



We Did It! School Opens with 40 Students

By Alice Iddi-Gubbels
Founder & Executive Director

It seems only yesterday that we began 2008 and here we are already well into 2009!

During this time outstanding accomplishments have been realized thanks to the grass-roots interest and support of committed people in both Ghana and the United States.

I want to share some highlights of our progress:

✂ We established partnerships with Bumboazio and Bantambaari communities to create the first school.

✂ Four acres of land were donated and a four-month long community labor initiative was organized to build the school.

✂ Student selection and the enrollment process were completed with close collaboration with community leaders.

✂ Teachers were recruited and trained in child development and the Montessori method of education.

✂ The first class began in October with 40 students and two teachers, under the watchful eye of the PAMBE Ghana Advisory Board and a deeply grateful Executive Director.

So much work remains before us to fulfill the dream of integrating local language and culture into the primary school curricula in Northern Ghana.

Thanks to you and all of our partners, friends and donors, we have made a great start! M pusia pam! (*I thank you very much!*)



The first class of preschool children and their fathers gather for a keepsake picture, memorializing a dream come true through the hard work of so many.

It Takes A Village To Build A School!



People in Bumboazio have never had a school and were excited by the chance to work with PAMBE Ghana to build one.

By the time all the discussions, negotiations and decisions were made, the rains had begun and the farming season (busiest) of the year was upon them.

Despite this, the villagers were unwavering in their commitment to build the school.

A huge community work initiative, consisting of men, women, and youth, volunteered their time, materials and labor.

More building materials, transport and technical assistance were provided by PAMBE Ghana.

Within four months, the people in the community completed construction of one classroom, a storeroom, an office, latrines, and an open-air pavilion.

Pambe Ghana, in Alice's mother tongue Mampruli, is a statement of pride, meaning "there is a lot in Ghana." There is certainly a lot of pride among the people in Bumboazio!



Moms and Dads Help with Lunch

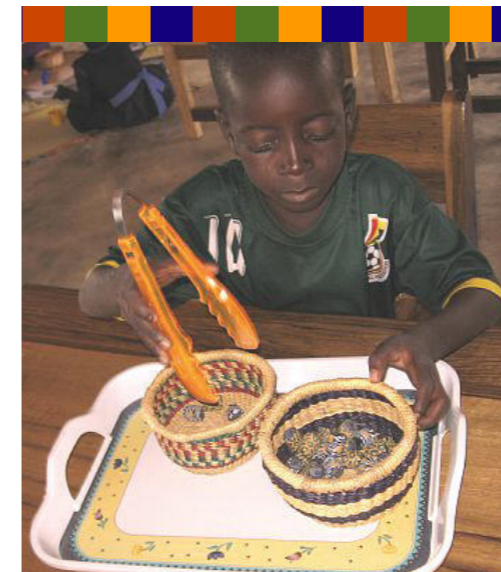
Parents engaged in long, animated discussions of whether to provide a meal for the children during the school day. Their conclusion was to provide a bowl (about seven pounds) each of peanuts, corn, soybean or cowpeas, and millet or sorghum at harvest time. Women take turns preparing and delivering "brunch" each day. Parents also carry water and firewood to the school.



Children enjoy hand-washing almost as much as brunch at the new Bumboazio School. Alice reports "the children love it so much they pretend they need to go to toilet so they can wash their hands." Many parents report children are requesting soap and clean water before they eat from the communal bowl at home.



After their meal, the children are responsible for washing up the dishes and utensils.



Fataw Mahama concentrates on transfer with tongs.



Barika Bukaribla and Nafisa Tuahiru work together on a botany puzzle.

Action In the Classroom!

There are over 100 children between the target ages of four to six years old in Bumboazio village alone but the new school has resources to enroll only 40 children during the first year.

With the full participation of community leaders, a consensus was reached on a fair and equitable process to select the first group of students from all households across different sections and ethnic groups.

The school opened for class on October 13, 2008. The teachers arrive at 7:00 AM, followed by children arriving between 7:30 and 8:00 AM. Classes begin at 8:00 and continue until 10:30 AM. Then brunch is served, everyone eats and cleans up, the children have recess and class resumes at 11:15 AM. At 12:30 PM the class day ends.



Dorcas Sulley (left) examines and sorts farm animals and Siika Sulley (right) threads beads.



Teachers Recruited, Trained in Child-Centered Education

PAMBE Ghana Board President, Kathy Carey, traveled to Ghana in July 2008 and conducted a three-week course on child development theories and the Montessori method of education. Eight teachers from the Ghana Education Service participated along with PAMBE Ghana teachers Issah Musah and Mary Azure, front row left.

